

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 12 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 12 stand rejected.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement herein on March 16, 2004 and note that no copy of the PTO-1449 was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited on the PTO-1449 (which is the same as that of record to that date in the parent application hereto) be made of record herein.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patents 6,240,535, 6,605,956, 6,801,048

Claims 1 through 12 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over patented claimed inventions of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,240,535, 6,605,956, and 6,801, 048. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing terminal disclaimers for U.S. Patents 6,240,535 and 6,605,956 (a Terminal Disclaimer for U.S. Patent 6,801,048 was previously filed in the application) to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimers should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached are the terminal disclaimers and accompanying fees.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

Applicants request entry of this amendment for the following reasons:

The amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

The amendment is timely filed.

The amendment does not require any further search or consideration.

CONCLUSION

Applicants request entry of this amendment, the allowance of claims 1 through 12, and the case passed for issue. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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